Whitley and Monkseaton

Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR, 1903,

OF

J. P. SPARKS, M.D.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

AND

J. W. HARPER, Inspector of Nuisances.

FEBRUARY 1904.

Whitley Bay:
J. Dowling and Sons, Ltd., Printers, Station Road.

1904,

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b30273602

WHITLEY,

FEB. 9th, 1904.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE WHITLEY AND MONKSEATON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you the Annual Report for the year 1903. The general death rate for the year is 9·8 as compared with 10·78 in 1902 and 12·18 the average for the five years preceding 1903 for which information is available. The zymotic death rate is ·8 per 1,000 as compared with 1·22 in 1902. The infant mortality rate is 112·15 per 1,000 births registered as compared with 85 per 1,000 in 1902, and the phthisis death rate is ·8 per 1,000 of population as compared with ·44 per 1,000 in 1902.

Population:—The population of the district at the last Census in 1901 was 7,705 and the number of inhabited houses was 1,550 giving an average number of persons per house of 4·98. At June 30th, 1903 the number of inhabited houses was 2,219 (ascertained) giving on the same basis a population of 11,134 persons. At the end of the year the number of inhabited houses was 2,100 only, owing to the large number of empty houses. I have therefore thought it advisable to estimate the average population of the district during 1903 at 10,000.

Improvements:—For the following information I am indebted to the Surveyor, Mr. Moore.

New houses & shops (including 11 houses in flats)	101
New School	1
New Drains laid ...	1 mile 1620 yards
New Sewers	113 yards.

Mortality Statistics :—The total number of deaths registered during the year was ·98, equivalent to a death rate of 9·8 per 1,000 of population, The rate in 1902 was 10·78 per 1,000 and in 1901 was 13·5 per 1,000.

Infant Mortality:—24 deaths occurred in infants under one year of age, equivalent to a mortality of 112·15 per 1,000 births registered and to an annual mortality of 2·4 per 1,000 of population. Of the 24 deaths 5 were due to diarrhœa, 2 to tubercular disease, 1 to bronchitis, 1 to pneumonia, 1 to congenital syphilis, 5 to premature birth, 1 to heart disease, 5 to convulsions. 2 to marasmus, 1 to injuries received at birth.

Zymotic Death Rate :—8 deaths were due to zymotic diseases during the year, equivalent to a zymotic death rate of ·8 per 1,000 of population as compared with 1·22 in 1902. Of the 8 deaths, 1 was due to scarlet-fever, 2 to whooping cough, and 5 to diarrhœa.

Deaths from General Diseases :—There were 8 deaths from phthisis during the year as compared with 4 in 1902. I am of opinion that the increased phthisis death-rate is due to the wet weather which prevailed during 1903, as such weather conditions are unfavourable for any one suffering from this disease. The death rate from phthisis was ·8 per 1,000 as compared with ·44 in 1902. Other tubercular diseases were responsible for 6 deaths, the deaths from tubercular diseases thus being 14 as compared with 5 in 1902.

From acute diseases of the respiratory system, 7 deaths were registered; of these 4 were due to bronchitis, and 3 to pneumonia. Cancer caused 3 deaths as compared with 8 in 1902, and heart disease 10 deaths as compared with 18 in 1902.

Five inquests were held during the year, 1 on the body of a female who poisoned herself with carbolic acid, 1 on the body of a female who died from burns accidently received, 1 on the body of a female who died from internal rupture not caused by

violence, 1 on the body of a female found dead in bed from convulsions, and 1 on the body of a male who was accidentally drowned. 3 deaths were uncertified, convulsions in 2 cases and cardiac syncope in 1 case being supposed to be the cause of death. The greatest age at death registered was 92 years.

Birth-Rate :—214 births (109 males and 105 females,) were registered during the year, equivalent to a birth rate of 21·4 per 1,000 of population as compared with 22·22 per 1,000 in 1902.

Infectious Diseases :—191 cases were notified during the year as compared with 95 cases in 1902. Of these 5 were of small-pox, 8 of erysipelas, 108 of scarlet fever, 2 of puerperal fever, and 67 of chicken pox.

Small-Pox :—5 cases were notified. The first case was notified on June 24th, the patient being a young man employed at the Heaton and Byker branch of the Newcastle Dispensary, where he, no doubt, contracted the disease. He was not removed to Hospital, but the other inmates left the house, with the exception of two, who were nursing the patient. All contacts were vaccinated and no other case occurred.

The second case was notified on July 23rd, the patient having come to Whitley with the disease, from Newcastle. The patient was removed to the Earsdon Hospital and the other inmates of the house were vaccinated. The third case was notified on August 18th, the patient being removed to the Earsdon Hospital the same day. The other inmates of the house were vaccinated. The fourth case was notified on September 3rd, and was a very serious one, the patient never having been vaccinated. In each of these cases the bedding, carpets &c., in the patient's rooms were burnt, as no steam disinfector was available. The fifth case was notified on December 11th, and the patient was removed to the Scaffold Hill Hospital the same day. All contacts with two exceptions were vaccinated. It will thus be seen that the district was five times invaded by small-pox and that in no case did the disease

spread beyond the original case. I regret that I am unable to give any information as to the average stay in Hospital of the small-pox patients as I am not in charge of the small-pox Hospital and I received no information when the patients were discharged.

In the early part of the year an arrangement was made with the authorities at Earsdon to receive any cases of small-pox in this district into their Hospital. Later on in the year a combined Hospital Committee was formed in conjunction with the Tynemouth (Rural) and Earsdon, and Seghill (Urban) Districts, which Committee built and equipped a Hospital at Scaffold Hill near Backworth for the reception of small-pox patients from the joint Districts. Placards were posted up in the district advising the inhabitants to be vaccinated.

The combined Hospital Committee has also taken over the Hospital at Earsdon, which will in future be used for the isolation of ordinary infectious diseases.

Scarlet Fever :—Cases of Scarlet Fever occurred in every month of the year. One death was due to scarlet fever, but the disease generally was of a very mild type which rendered the detection and isolation of sufferers from it very difficult. The cases occurred as follows :

Jan.	5 cases.	July	8 cases.
Feb.	21 ,,	August	3 ,,
March	13 ,,	Sept.	6 ,,
April	14 ,,	Oct.	7 ,,
May	14 ,,	Nov.	7 ,,
June	5 ,,	Dec.	5 ,,
		Total	108.

Seven cases were removed to the Earsdon Hospital, which was used for the isolation of scarlet fever from March 5th to April 13th. On the latter date the patients had to be sent back to their homes owing to the Hospital being wanted for a case of small-pox which occurred in the Tynemouth Rural District.

Enteric Fever :—1 case was reported and proved fatal, its origin could not be traced.

Erysipelas :—8 cases were reported during the year.

Puerperal Fever :—2 cases were notified and 1 proved fatal.

Chicken Pox :—67 cases were notified during the year. The infected houses were in each case visited and disinfected.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops :—There are now 31 on the register. They have been inspected at intervals during the year and found to be clean and well conducted. The hind-quarters of the cows were in some instances found to be very dirty.

There are 14 cow-keepers and dairymen in the district, keeping 160 cows, the average air-space per cow in the byres being 799·97 cubic feet. In five cases the manure heap is within six feet of the byre. In three instances the fodder is kept in the byre, in four instances in the loft above the byre and in aerial communication with it & in seven instances in a separate building.

There are 17 milk shops and vendors of milk in the district, of these 6 are dairies, 2 dairies and general shops, and 9 general shops selling a small quantity of milk. In one instance coals are sold in the shop, and in this instance also the shop is only divided by a door from a sleeping apartment.

The vessels containing milk are not kept covered, though the shop-keepers have several times been warned of the necessity of keeping a cover on the milk to protect it from dust flying in the air.

Slaughter Houses :—There are 9 slaughter houses in the district, 1 being used by two butchers. I again have to report that they are still unlicensed. There have been a great many complaints received during the year of the nusiance arising from the smells from the slaughter houses and the noises caused by the animals being hungered in the adjoining yards.

Factories and Workshops :—There are now 40 on the register.

Dressmakers	5	Cabinet Maker	1
Milliners	3	Plumbers	4
Laundry	1	Blacksmiths	3
Bake-houses	8	Tailors	2
Bootmakers	3	Saddler	1
Joiners	4	Cartwrights	2
Printers	2	Glazier	1

These have been visited during the year and found to be in good sanitary condition with ample air-space for the workers and efficient ventilation. The bakehouses are lime-washed twice a year. A register of workshops is kept. There are no offensive trades carried on in the district.

Water Supply :—The district is supplied by the Tynemouth Corporation. During the year there has been a plentiful supply of water of fairly good quality. The water is cut off at night.

Methods of disposal of excrement, house-refuse etc.:—Most of the houses have a water-closet inside the house and a privy pail outside. The contents of the privy pails mixed with ashes are removed in carts and spread over the land. The privy pails are emptied daily. Ashpits are emptied once a month and the contents disposed of in the same way. Trade refuse is removed thrice a week and emptied on to the tip heap.

The removal of refuse is in the hands of Contractors, and many complaints were received during the year of the unsatisfactory way in which the work was performed.

The number of :—

Ashpits most of which are combined privy-ashpits is	71
Receptacles for dry house refuse	1385
Privy-pails	1064
Water-closets, inside and outside of houses	2671

The Sewers are flushed from a flushing tank at the highest part of the system. The main sewer discharges into the sea.

Improvements:—This district has combined with the sanitary authorities of Tynemouth (Rural,) & Earsdon and Seghill (Urban) districts in forming a combined hospital committee to provide accommodation for cases of infectious diseases. The committee now possesses two hospitals, one at Scaffold Hill and one at Earsdon, both of which were used for the reception of cases of small-pox occurring in the joint districts. A sewer at Relton Terrace, Monkseaton, which had a fall in the opposite direction to the flow of sewage has been relaid.

The report of the Sanitary Inspector shews the number of nuisances abated during the year.

Requirements of the district:—A steam disinfector is urgently needed. Owing to the lack of this a considerable amount of clothing, bedding, etc., had to be burnt, the Council thus being involved in unnecessary expense.

The construction of the public Abattoir should be pushed on, as the present slaughter-houses form the greatest blot on the fair fame of the district from a sanitary point of view. Until this is obtained the slaughter-houses should be licensed.

The Scavenging should be taken out of the hands of Contractors. I hope that before another year has passed, the Council will take up this important work.

I am indebted to the Sanitary Inspector Mr. Harper, and to his predecessor in office, Mr. Martin, for their able and zealous assistance during the year.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. P. SPARKS, M. D.

Fellow of the Incorporated Society of Medical Officers of Health.

M. O. H.

Table I.—Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1903 and previous years.

Whitley and Monkseaton District.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		Total deaths registered in the District.				Nett deaths at all ages belonging to the District.	
				Under 1 Year of age.		At all Ages.			
		Number	Rate*	Number	Rate per 1000 Births registered.	Number,	Rate*	Number.	Rate*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	12	13
1893	No Information								
1894	No Information								
1895	4135	89	21·5			59	14·2	59	14·2
1896	No Information								
1897	5755	98	17			59	10·25	59	10·25
1898	No Information								
1899	No Information								
1900	9165		16·47						10·36
1901	8000	173	21 62	26	150	108	13·5	108	13·5
1902	9000	200	22·22	19	85	97	10·78	97	10·78
Averages for Years 1893-1902. For which information is available,	7211	140	19·76	22·5	117·5	80·75	12·18	80·75	12·18
1903	10000	214	21·4	24	112·15	98	9·8	98	9·8

*Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 1540.

Total population at all ages.....7,705
Number of inhabited houses.....1,550 } At Census of 1901.
Average number of persons per house.....4·98

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District.---Prudhoe Memorial Convalescent Home (No death is registered as having occurred in this Institution during 1903).

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District.---Tynemouth Union Workhouse, Scaffold Hill and Earsdon Hospitals. (So far as I can ascerfain no death has occurred in these Institutions of persons from the Whitley and Monkseaton Urban Dlstrict),

Table III.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the Year, 1903.

Whitley and Monkseaton District.

Notifiable Disease	Cases notified in whole district.							No. of Cases removed to Hospital from whole district,
	At all Ages.	At Ages.—Years.						
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards	1
Small-pox ...	5				2	3		4
Cholera ...	nil							
Diphtheria ...	nil							
Membraneous croup	nil							
Erysipelas ...	8				2	5	1	
Scarlet fever ...	108	2	35	59	7	5		7
Typhus fever ...	nil							
Enteric fever ...	1			1				
Relapsing fever ...	nil							
Continued fever ...	nil							
Puerperal fever ...	2				1	1		
Plague ...	nil							
Chicken-pox ...	67	5	39	15	8			
Totals ...	191	7	74	74	21	14	1	11

Isolation Hospitals.—Small-pox Hospital at Scaffold Hill in Tynemouth (Rural) District, and for other diseases at Earsdon in Earsdon (Urban) District. From March 5th to April 13th, the Earsdon Hospital was used for the reception of Scarlet-fever patients from the Whitley and Monkseaton Urban District.

Table IV.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during Year, 1903.

Whitley and Monkseaton District.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in or belonging to whole district at subjoined ages.						
	All Ages,	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Scarlet Fever ...	1		1				
Whooping-cough ...	2		2				
Enteric Fever ...	1			1			
Epidemic Influenza ...	1						1
Diarrhœa ...	5	5					
Puerperal Fever ...	1				1		
Phthisis ...	8			3	1	3	1
Other Tnbercular diseases ...	6	2	2	2			
Cancer, malignant disease ...	3					2	1
Bronchitis ...	4	1					3
Pneumonia ...	3	1				2	
Other diseases of Respiratory Organs	3		1			1	1
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of Liver ...	4					4	
Venereal Diseases ...	1	1					
Premature Birth .	5	5					
Diseases and accidents of parturition ...	2					2	
Heart Diseases ...	10	1				2	7
Accidents ...	2		1			1	
Suicides ...	1					1	
All Other causes ...	35	8	3	3		8	13
All cause ...	98	24	10	9	2	26	27

Causes of death included in Table IV under the head of "all other causes."

Sex.	Age.	Cause of Death.
F.	76 years	Senile Decay.
F.	74 years	do.
M.	82 years	do.
F.	77 years	do.
F,	92 years	do.
F.	45 years	Cerebral Haemorrhage
F.	55 years	do.
M.	42 years	do.
F.	90 years	do.
F.	71 years	do.
F.	82 years	do.
F.	64 years	do.
F.	71 years	do.
M.	73 years	Cerebral Embolism
M.	7 years	Cerebral Meningitis
F.	84 years	Chronic Cerebral Softening
M.	27 days	Convulsions
F.	3½ months	do. Inquest
F.	16 days	do.
F.	4 months	do.
M.	14 months	do.
M.	4 months	do.
M.	13 days	Marasmus
F.	2 months	do.
F.	25 years	Appendicitis
F.	15 months	Congenital Hydrocephalus
M.	77 years	Prostatic Enlargement. Uraemia
F.	63 years	Severe Gastric Catarrh
M.	14 years	Acute Nephritis
F.	2 years	Diabetes Mellitus
F.	70 years	Rheumatoid Arthritis
M.	1 day	Pressure on Umbilical Cord before birth
M.	9 years	Acute Osteo-Myelitis
F.	26 years	Internal Rupture. Inquest
F.	61 years	Acute Lencocythaemia

COUNTY OF NORTHUMBERLAND.

Whitley & Monkseaton Urban District Council.

Annual Report

OF THE

Inspector of Nuisances,

FOR THE YEAR 1903.

Annual Report of the Inspector of Nuisances.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Whitley and Monkseaton Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report of the work done in my department during the year ending 31st December 1903.

Scavenging :—I estimate that the contractors have removed to the different deposits about 4,940 loads of house and shop refuse. This quantity will represent an aggregate of about 3,705 tons. *See Table* 1.

Nuisances :—During the year preliminary notices were served upon owners, agents and occupiers dealing with 408 Nuisances. A detailed list is submitted in Tables II. and III. Most of the nuisances were immediately abated and in no instance was legal proceedings found necessary.

Slaughter Houses :—Nine premises are used by the butchers of the district for slaughter houses. All are in close proximity to dwellings. Two butchers slaughter in the yard behind sale shop, and one uses the cellar under his shop for killing purposes. The several premises have been frequently visited, they were generally found in a fairly clean condition, special regard being given to the cleansing and limewashing of the interior walls.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops:—There are on the register 31 Cowkeepers, Dairymen and Vendors of Milk viz.—

14 Cowkeepers, Dairymen and Vendors of Milk (combined.)

17 Vendors of Milk (only.)

The number of cows kept in the different Cowsheds of the district is 160, and the average capacity per cow is 799·97 cubic feet. The various premises were from time to time inspected—several visits being made in company with the Medical Officer. They appeared to be kept in a cleanly state and limewashed in accordance with the Council's Regulations.

Infectious Diseases:—191 notifications have been received from the Medical Officer. The various houses were disinfected and a quantity of infected clothing, bedding etc , conveyed to the refuse heap and burnt. Two schools were also disinfected. Five cases of small-pox were notified, four were removed to the hospital and one nursed at home. The district is now free of this disease, the last case being discharged from the hospital on January 11th, 1904.

Steam Disinfector:—The system of disinfecting bedding, clothing and similar articles with sulphur dioxide gas cannot be considered at all satisfactory. At the most it is only recognised as a surface disinfectant, hence the necessity of a steam disinfector for the district.

Workshops:—There are 40 Workshops on the Register, 12 being added during the year, 2 are Domestic Workshops. A list of the various trades is given in *Table* IV.

In all cases the provisions of the Act, as to cleanliness, ventilation, lighting and air space, have been properly observed.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. WALTER HARPER, Assoc. San. Inst.

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

Table I.

Removal of House and Shop Refuse—Contract Price £920 5s

No. of Tons of Refuse dealt with ... ... 3,705.

	Tons	Cost	Cost per Ton
		£ s.	s d.
Ashpits, Privy Pails, Dry Ash Pails, and Shop Refuse	3705	920 5	4 11¼

	Cwts.	Cost.
		s. d.
Per Head of Population (9,900 estimated)	7·4	1 10¼
Per House (*2,200 estimated)	33·6	8 4¼

*Approximate number of Houses occupied.
The number of Houses in the District is 2,500.

Number of Water Closets, Privies, Ashpits, &c. in the district.

Description.	Number.
Water Closets (in Houses and Yards)	2671
Ashpits (most of which are combined privy ashpits) ...	71
Receptacles for Dry House Refuse	1385
Privy Pails	1064

Table II.

A summary of the Nuisances deal with by Notice under the Public Health Acts and Bye-Laws.

Nature of Nuisance dealt with and work required to be done.	Number of nuisances
To Relay and repair defective drains, including the provision of trapped gullies, intercepting traps, New W.C.s & fittings ...	21
Hatch Doors (to provide)	41
Sanitary Pails (to provide)	268
To clear blocked drains and Water Closets	30
To provide Sanitary Conveniences for Dry House Refuse ...	4
To abolish foul ashpits and substitute Water Closets or Privy Pails	2
To remove manure and filthy rubbish	5
To renew Water supply to Water Closets	7
Dirty Yards and Sinks (served on occupier)	4
To repair dilapidated property	3
To provide Cesspool	1
To disconnect and renew sinks and waste pipes	6
Damp house walls and floors	6
Miscellaneous	10
Total	408

Table III.

Details relating to certain work carried out in the abatement of Nuisances during 1903.

Defective Drains, length in yards re-constructed & made efficient	245
New Gullies provided to drains	9
Combined Privies and Ashpits removed	4
Waterclosets provided	8
Pail Closets provided	3
Defective Watercloset Basin removed and better design substituted	2
Sanitary pails provided	266
Receptacles and Recesses provided in place of common ashpit ...	3
Drains tested with smoke and water	33
Hatch Doors provided	39
Choked Drains—obstruction removed	30

Table IV.

Factory and Workshops' Act.

List of the various Trades on the Register.

Dressmakers	5	Tailors	2
Milliners	3	Bootmakers	3
Laundries	1	Saddlers	1
Bakehouses	8	Joiners	4
Cabinet Makers	1	Cartwrights	2
Plumbers	4	Printers	2
Blacksmiths	3	Glaziers	1